



Water
Stories | *A River Harvest
Première Performance*

Producers' Vision

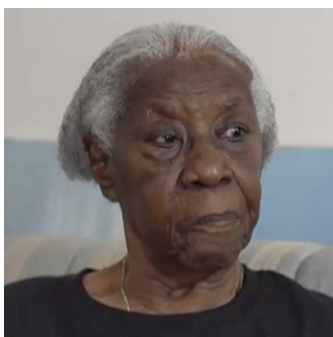
Water Stories is a multidimensional project conceived of and produced by Dr. Tru Leverette Hall and Dr. Maureen McCluskey. The community project which *Water Stories* supports is the Resilient Ribault Initiative, formed by St. John's Riverkeeper and Local Initiative Support Corporation. Resilient Ribault is being designed to expand connections between Jacksonville, Florida's Ribault River/Moncrief Road residents and nature, to study and restore the environmental and economic assets of the district, and to better memorialize its history and preserve its cemeteries. The river itself serves as both a metaphorical and literal path of connection, communal empowerment, self-sufficiency, and resiliency. Likewise, the area's cemeteries — historically neglected by the city — exist as both natural spaces and sites of ancestral-communal connection. As such, they too need documentation and preservation, as do the stories of those interred there.

The interdisciplinary connections among the *Water Stories* collaborators highlight the synergies among oral and public history, ethnography, race, environmental justice, and the arts. The project collaborators understand the need for the arts in environmental justice work, as the benefits of the arts are continual and communal. The arts help gather communities, help translate environmental land memory, help frame conversations on environmental justice, and help foster communal healing and resilience through shared embodied experience. Additionally, Jacksonville faces an ongoing need for more local stories and community connections. Through the arts, this project helps foster communal empowerment and helps thread human connections to nature and each other. Like the griot (storyteller) figure of the African diasporic tradition, *Water Stories* asserts that the stories we tell (and who has a platform to tell them) shape our environmental justice work and therefore our collective future.

Thank you to our Partners and Supporters

Eartha's Farm & Market
UNF Eisen Experiential Learning Grant
UNF Digital Humanities Institute
UNF College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Leadership Council
UNF Institute of Environmental Research and Education
UNF Foundation Board
Jax Beach Aerial Arts
Cummer Museum
Jack Allen, Jr.
Katie LeMaster
Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) Jacksonville
Ribault River Preserve Park
St. John's Riverkeeper

Resilient Ribault Interviews



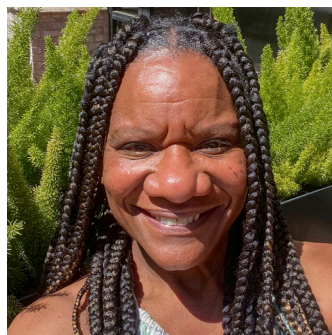
Anita Garner



Uncle Nate Thomas



Lillian Smith



Thelma Straight

(Not Pictured)

Yvonne Laidler Cason

Vivioria Frazier

Artistic Works

1. *Overture*
 - Composition by Dr. Marie A. Douglas, Produced by Dr. Maureen E. McCluskey and Dr. Marie A. Douglas
 - Vocal Artists: Victoria Mapayi, Naijah Cox, Noa Simon, Taylor Thomas
2. *Prologue: From the Earth – A Perspective on the Concept of Home*
 - Musical Composition by Ezra Welborn; Choreography by Rayanna Campbell; Vision: Rayanna Campbell, Dr Maureen E. McCluskey.
 - Featured Dancers: Victoria Mapayi, Monyel Poole, Rayanna Campbell, Noa Simon, William Louis Tannse, Naji Jones, Chanel Pereira
3. *Beautiful Rivers*
 - Written by Jeremy McKinnies. Movement Direction by Fati D. McKinnies, Vocals performed by Victoria Mapayi, Noa Simon, William Louis Tannse, Naji Jones, Monyel Poole, and Rayanna Campbell.
4. *When the River Writes*
 - Written by Alisha Lockley, Performed by Dawn King
5. *Consider it Pure Joy*
 - Composed by Naijah Cox, Introduced by Monyel Poole, Performed by Rayanna Campbell & Company
6. *Oceans & Sabbaths*
 - Written by Alisha Lockley, Performed by Victoria Mapayi & Company
7. *Pose Story*
 - Written and Performed by William Louis Tannse & Rayanna Campbell
8. *Echoes of the Earth*
 - Lyrics by Victoria Mapayi; Music by Ezra Welborn. Vocals performed by Victoria Mapayi; Movement and Aerial by Chanel Pereira
9. *Our Stories*
 - Written and Performed by Monyel Poole
10. *Water Stories: A River Harvest*
 - Musical Composition by Naijah Cox. Aerial Choreography, Direction, and Performance by Rayanna Campbell
11. *Thelma*
 - Written and directed by Noa Simon. Performed by William Louis Tannse, Victoria Mapayi, Monyel Poole, Naji Jones
12. *Interlude*
 - Musical Composition by Dr. Marie A. Douglas. Vocals: Theo Turner
13. *The Power of Premonitions*
 - Written by Kaleb “Apollo” Lawrence, Performed by Noa Simon
14. *Finale - From the Earth – A Resilience Story*
 - Musical Composition by Ezra Welborn; Choreography by Rayanna Campbell; Vision: Rayanna Campbell, Chanel Pereria, Dr. Maureen E. McCluskey
 - Dancers: Rayanna Campbell, Monyel Poole, William Louis Tannse, Victoria Mapayi, and Chanel Pereira
15. *Cast Bows*
 - Composition by Naijah Cox; Staged by Rayanna Campbell

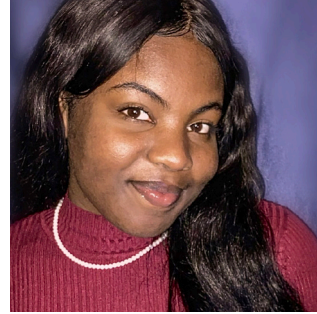
Cast



Noa Simon



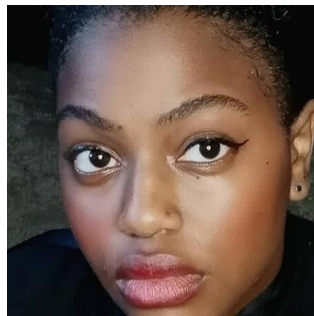
Victoria Mapai



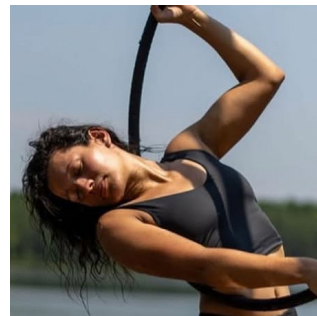
Dawn King



Theo Turner



Naijah Cox



Chanel Pereira



William Louis Tannse



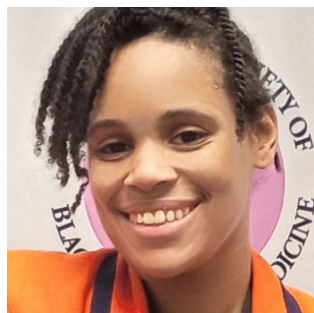
Taylor Thomas



Naji Jones



Rayanna Campbell



Monyel Poole



Kaleb Apollo
Lawrence

Production Team

Producers: Dr. Tru Leverette Hall, Dr. Maureen E. McCluskey, Dr. Jillian Smith

Directors: Rayanna Campbell, William Louis Tannse, Dr. Maureen E. McCluskey

Stage Managers: Alanis Davila Marquez and Kiana Gonzalez

Music Director: Jeremy McKinnies

Assistant Directors: Noa Simon, Fati D. McKinnies

Choreographer: Rayanna Campbell

Sound Designer and Engineer: Ezra Welborn

Scenic Designer: Candace Dickens

Production Manager: Dr. Maureen E. McCluskey

Aerial Consultant: Chanel Pereira

Student Photographer: Christine Vu

Student Producers: Rayanna Campbell, William Louis Tannse, Jaley Howard, Ezra Welborn, Alanis Davila Marquez, Kiana Gonzalez, Dawn King, Christine Vu, and Noa Simon

Student Film Intern: Mo Morrisette

Student Costume Designers: Dawn King, Rayanna Campbell

Composers: Dr. Marie Douglas, Jeremy McKinnies, Naijah Cox, Ezra Welborn, Victoria Mapayi

*Faculty Team: Dr. Maureen E. McCluskey, Dr. Tru Leverette Hall, Jeremy McKinnies,
Dr. Kailan Sindelar,
Fati McKinnies, Dr. Erin Bodnar, Candace Dickens, and Dr. Joshua Tomlinson*

*Technical Consultants: Chanel Pereira, Rayanna Campbell, Dr. Maureen E. McCluskey,
Candace Dickens, Ezra Welborn, Jeremy McKinnies*

Film Consultants: Craig Pedroza and Niam Jones

ASL Interpreter Team: Dawn Moore and Marlana Longendelpher

We acknowledge that the interpreters for this production are not representative of the stories being told and feel honored to be able to volunteer for this show. The interpreters feel they would be remiss to not mention the disparities in the interpreting community when it comes to the representation of Black, Indigenous, and Interpreters of Color.

Production Team



Dr. Tru
Leverette Hall



Dr. Maureen
McCluskey



Dr. Marie
Douglas



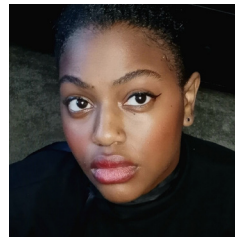
Alisha Lockley



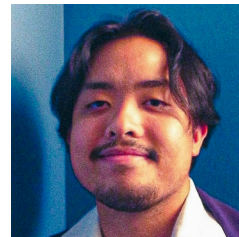
Dr. Kailan
Sindelar



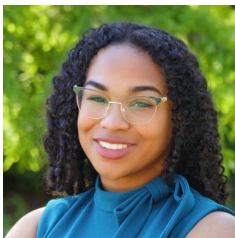
Jeremy
McKinnies



Naijah Cox



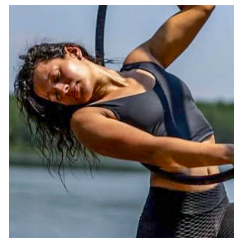
Craig Pedroza



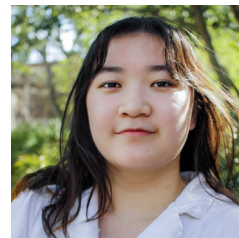
Rayanna
Campbell



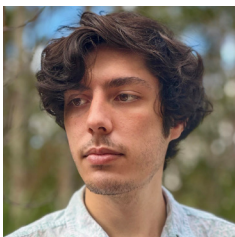
Candace Dickens



Chanel Pereira



Christine Vu



Ezra Wellborn



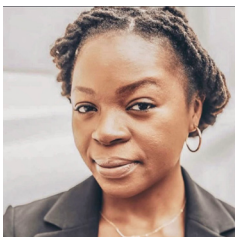
Mo Morrisette



Kiana Gonzalez



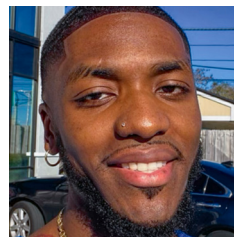
Alanis Davila
Marquez



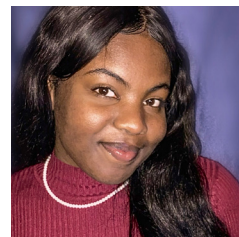
Fati D McKinnies



William Louis
Tansse



Kaleb Apollo
Lawrence



Dawn King



St Paul's Lutheran Church
Saturday, March 8, 2025 | 5:30 p.m.

The Lazzara Performance Hall
Thursday, March 13, 2025 | 7 p.m.

Cummer Museum
Saturday, April 19, 2025 | 11:30 a.m.

Free and open to the public

